

NEWS FROM

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Financial Aid Tip of the Month, November 2008

Pay attention to deadlines for scholarships, admissions

Now is the time for high school seniors to begin paying close attention to application deadlines for college admissions and financial aid. Here are some tips from the Alabama College Loan Program:

- If you have not yet chosen a college, narrow your list by visiting schools and talking with students and your parents. You may also compare schools at www.alabamamentor.org.
- If you plan to go through the early decision process, which means you commit to going to a particular school in the fall, most schools request the applications be submitted about this time of year.
- If you're going through the regular admissions process, now is the time to talk with teachers about writing recommendations and to work on your admissions essay if you need to write one. Many private colleges require an essay as part of the admissions process.
- Check with the financial aid offices of the schools to which you've applied to determine if they require any financial aid forms other than the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Familiarize yourself with the FAFSA. Unless you're starting college before July 1, you can't file the FAFSA until after the first of the year. But you should take a look at the information it requires and make a list of the information that you'll need when it is time to submit it.
- Attend any college fairs and financial aid seminars offered by your high school or in your area. If a company wants to charge you a fee for helping you with admissions and financial aid applications, make sure it's a reputable company by checking with the State Attorney General's office or Better Business Bureau in your area, as well as the area where the firm is located.

For more information about financial aid and college planning, write to KHEAA–Alabama, 100 North Union Street, Suite 390, Montgomery, AL 36104-3761; or call 334-265-9720, toll free (800) 721-9720.